

United States Department of Agriculture



Natural Resources Conservation Service
6200 Jefferson NE, Room 305
Albuquerque, NM 87109
Phone: (505) 761-4400 **Fax:** (505) 761-4463
Web site: www.nm.nrcs.usda.gov

March 6, 2009

NEW MEXICO BULLETIN NO. 300-9-4

SUBJECT: LTP - UPDATED GUIDANCE FOR IMPLEMENTING EQIP AND WHIP IN FY 2009.

To: All Employees

VARIOUS ACTION DATES

Purpose. To advise all employees of updated guidance in program implementation.

Expiration Date. September 30, 2009.

Attached are a finalized schedule of activities/deadlines for implementing EQIP and WHIP in FY 2009, a media news release which can be distributed to local media, SWCD and FSA county newsletters, etc., and a table with initial FO allocations.

Payment schedules are due to be released by April 10, 2009. We will try to have them released sooner in New Mexico if possible.

A state wide funding pool and ranking criteria will be established for Organic Farmers.

Decisions on the Air Quality component and the Climate Change/Energy Initiative (including practice cost estimates and scenarios) are pending.

The Index Payment Rate (IPR) will not be deployed until FY 2010.

Ranking tools have been set up mostly by area. Within each area there will be a ranking tool for the different land uses, such as Southeast Area Grazing or Northwest Area Irrigated Crop. All FO with grazing lands in the Southeast Area, as an example, will have their local issues within that ranking tool. Applicants will still just compete with other applicants in the same land use within the FO service area.

The only EQIP fund account where applications will compete on a statewide basis will be the Private-Federal Cooperative Grazing Initiative.

Questions may be directed to ASTC/Programs Norman Vigil (505-761-4445) or Resource Conservationist Michael Neubeiser (505-761-4419).

/s/

DENNIS L. ALEXANDER
State Conservationist

Attachments:
Schedule of Activities/Deadlines
Table of FO Allocations
News Media Release